

ABSTRACT

Microorganisms of the genus *Bacillus* that are capable of reducing nitrates and contain chitin and/or chitosan in their cell walls are provided. The microorganism of the invention can be used for improving soil, for treating organic waste by fermentation, for fermenting soybeans, and for reducing bitterness. The microorganism of the invention can also be used as a feed additive or a food additive. Further, the microorganism of the invention has an anti-microbial effect.